Development of AIR and DD services in border areas

848. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated improvement and development of AIR and Doordarshan services in border areas of the country to counter the misinformation campaigns from across the borders particularly from hostile neighbours; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Improvement and development of AIR and Doordarshan services in border areas of the country is a continuous process and projects for this purpose are taken up depending on the availability of resources. Presently, 9 studios and 237 transmitters of Doordarshan and 34 Radio Station/ transmitters of AIR are functioning in border districts of the country. In addition, 2 Studio and 71 transmitter projects of Doordarshan and 24 Studio-cum-transmitter projects of All India Radio are under implementation. AIR and Doordarshan put out a number of regular and special programmes in different languages for countering propaganda from across the border.

Selling of DD Metro prime slot

849. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether DD Metro's prime slot was sold to Adhikari Brothers for a paltry sum this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount for which it was sold last year;

(d) whether there were few takers of it; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Sri Adhikari Brothers participated in the bid for 8.00 P.M. to 9.00 P.M. and 9.00 P.M. to 10.00 P.M. slots on DD-Mctro